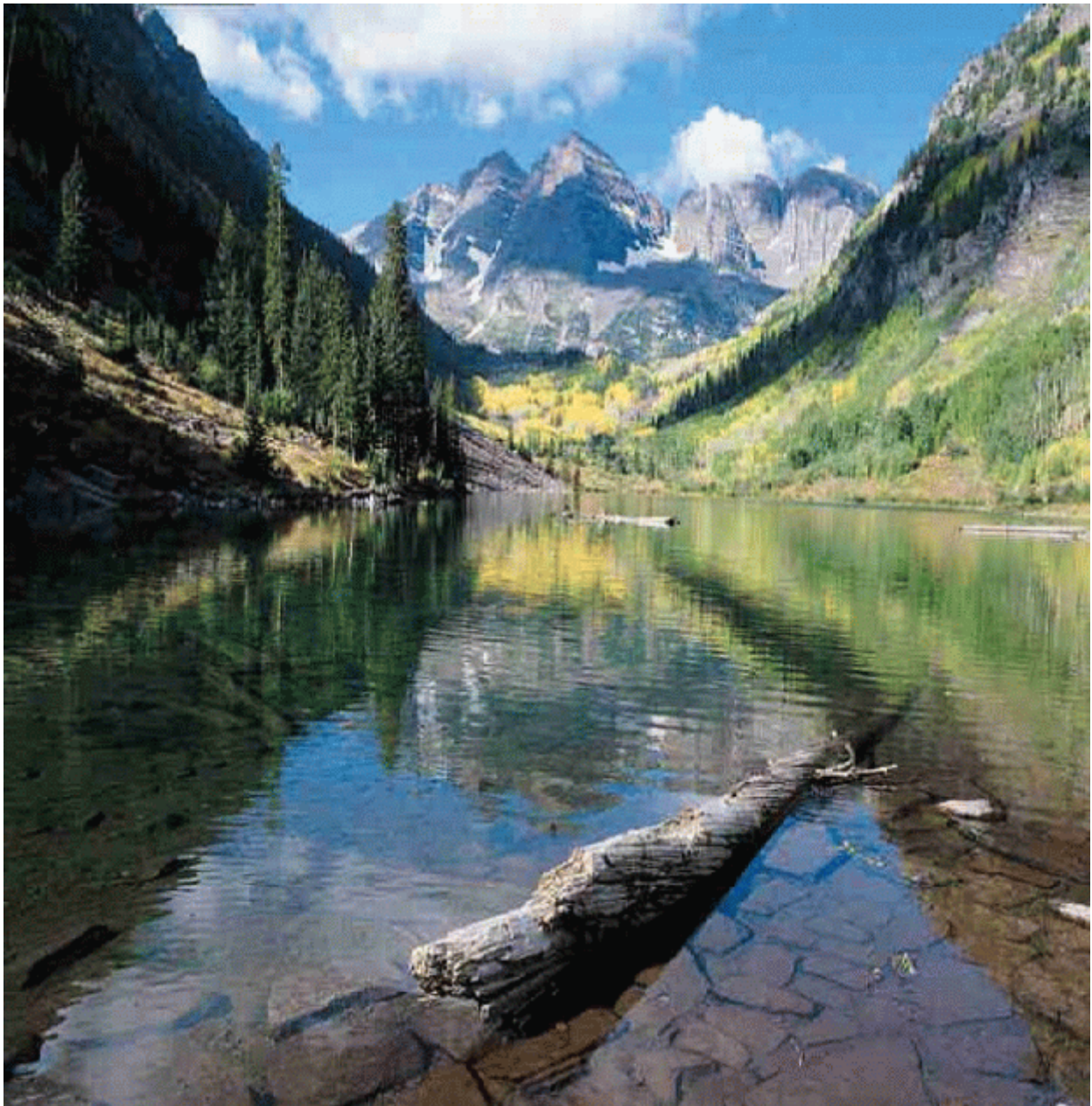


Clean Water Action Plan Progress Through 2000

December 2000



Clean Water Action Plan



January 16, 2001

Memorandum

TO: Dan Glickman
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

Carol Browner
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Bruce Babbitt
Secretary
Department of the Interior

Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary
Department of Commerce

Honorable William Cohen
Secretary
Department of Defense

Honorable George Frampton
Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality

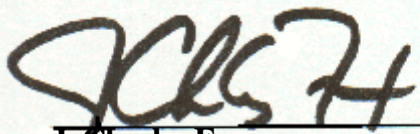
On behalf of the federal agency partners on the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) Principals' Group, we are pleased to enclose a progress report on the Action Plan's accomplishments through the year 2000.

We are especially pleased to report on the many accomplishments resulting from the efforts of state, tribal and local governments, as well as a broad range of stakeholders working primarily at the watershed level. All the federal agencies have demonstrated outstanding leadership and partnership in furtherance of the goals of the Action Plan.

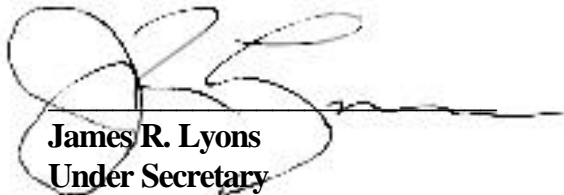
For nearly three years, headquarters, regional and field staff have worked to implement these action items. Perhaps most important, they have demonstrated true interagency cooperation, enhanced their focus on watersheds, and partnered with others in support of locally-led clean water efforts.

We hope you find this status report informative and a useful record of Action Plan accomplishments under your watch. You can be proud of these accomplishments and of the continuing efforts to restore and protect the health of water resources for the communities that depend on them.

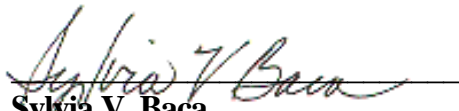
As was noted in February 1998, in the Action Plan's introductory chapter, "The submission of this Clean Water Action Plan begins a process; it does not end one." So too, the submission of this progress report does not end a process; it marks the milestone of a successful beginning.



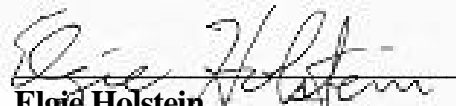
J. Charles Fox
Assistant Administrator for Water
Environmental Protection Agency



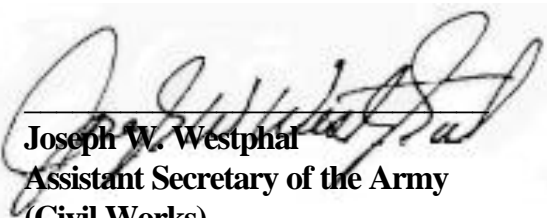
James R. Lyons
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
Department of Agriculture



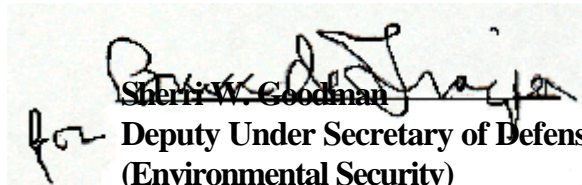
Sylvia V. Baca
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
Department of the Interior



Elgie Holstein
Under Secretary
for Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration



Joseph W. Westphal
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)
Army Corps of Engineers



Sherri W. Goodman
for Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Environmental Security)
Department of Defense

Clean Water Action Plan: Progress Through 2000

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Clean Water Action Plan: Progress Through 2000

I. Introduction

On October 18, 1997, the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the Vice President directed Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner to work with other federal agencies within existing legal authorities, to develop a plan that would improve water quality and therefore reinforce the original goal of the Clean Water Act: ensuring “fishable and swimmable” waters for all Americans. The resultant *Clean Water Action Plan: Restoring and Protecting America’s Waters* was issued in February 1998. It emphasizes a cooperative approach to watershed protection in which state, tribal, federal, and local governments, and the public first identify the watersheds with the most critical water quality problems and then work together to focus resources and implement effective strategies to solve those problems. The Action Plan contains 111 key actions designed to further this goal. The full text of the Action Plan is available on the Internet at www.cleanwater.gov.

Nearly three years have passed since the Action Plan was released. The purpose of this progress report is to account to an internal audience of federal managers for the status and accomplishments of the Action Plan’s 111 action items. Major accomplishments or milestones completed are highlighted in part II of this report. A table of numbered action items, their progress and status, and their location in the original Action Plan can be found in Appendix B.

There have been many accomplishments resulting from the efforts of federal, state, tribal and local governments, as well as a broad range of stakeholders working primarily at the watershed level. The federal agencies and their partners have completed nearly half of the Action Plan’s 111 key action items, while many other action items have produced notable interim products or results. Good to excellent progress has been made on most other action items, even when the Action Plan itself anticipated an action item completion date in the distant future. In addition, the agencies have made important advances in building cooperation and support for the watershed approach, and in on-the-ground restoration efforts. These improvements in the health of our watersheds will mean improvements in the quality of life for many generations to come.

In addition to the action item highlights and an accounting of the status of all 111 key action items, this report also notes major accomplishments that can be attributed to the Action Plan, as well as some of the obstacles encountered.

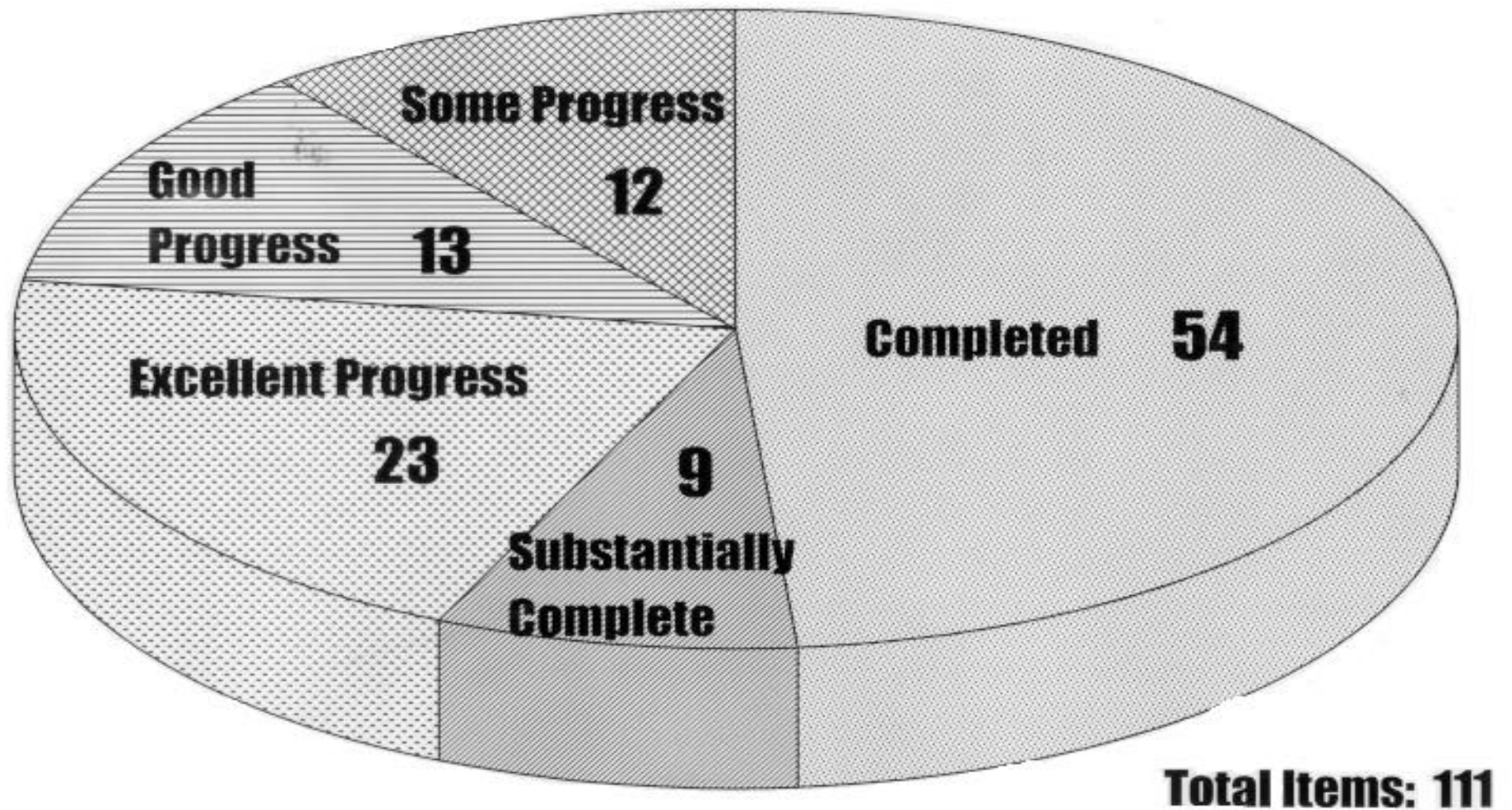
Two previous documents reported on the status and progress of the Action Plan on the first and second anniversary dates of the Action Plan: *Clean Water Action Plan: The first year; The future* (February 1999), and *Clean Water Action Plan: The Second Year Report: Progress Through Partnerships* (February 2000). Both reports were made available to the public and were widely distributed. In addition, a *Watershed Restoration Progress Report* is being prepared (as stipulated in

action item #102) and will be issued in early 2001. The *Watershed Restoration Progress Report* has a much broader scope than any of the other progress reports. Rather than focus on progress in implementing the 111 action items, the *Watershed Restoration Progress Report* addresses progress and barriers in restoring watersheds, and recommends steps for federal agencies to take to improve and expand federal support for watershed restoration efforts.

In addition to those three public documents, the federal agencies involved in Action Plan implementation developed an internal document, the *Clean Water Action Plan: Strategy 2000* which addresses core Action Plan principles and proposes a strategy with steps to ensure the achievement of the Action Plan's goals.

Taken together, these accomplishments, reports and plans help to ensure the Action Plan leaves a legacy of a broader understanding of watershed restoration and protection, and a new spirit and level of cooperation to get this work done. By addressing water quality problems on a watershed scale, our efforts become more effective with comprehensive and more lasting results. The work begun under the Action Plan's 111 action items, and the partnerships established through the watershed approach, can be continued as a new way of doing business to clean up the nation's waters.

Clean Water Action Plan: Action Item Status Update



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II Examples Of Action Item Accomplishments

On-The-Ground Results:

Although many of the action items in the Action Plan pertain to improved processes (such as increased technical assistance), and some pertain to additional products (such as regulations or reports) or studies (such as states' watershed assessments), there are a number of key action items which have resulted in on-the-ground improvements through the efforts of many federal agencies and their partners.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (#38) is a voluntary program which offers financial support to landowners for wetlands restoration projects. During 1998, roughly 212,000 acres were enrolled in this program, and an additional almost 120,000 acres of wetlands were enrolled by farmers in 1999, with 14,800 acres of high priority wetlands restored.

The Action Plan provided a boost to the National Conservation Buffer Initiative [through action items # 62, 63, and 64], under which conservation programs have resulted in the installation of nearly 3.6 million acres or nearly 1 million miles of buffers along rivers, streams, and field borders since 1997.

Over the past three years, federal land managers (under actions #20 and #23) have restored thousands of miles of stream corridors, improved tens of thousands of acres of lakes for fish habitat, decommissioned over 6,000 miles of forest roads, and improved over 9,300 additional road miles.

Under action #29, cleanup efforts were completed at 10 abandoned hardrock mines, and work was begun at 120 new sites in 31 watersheds across 12 states. These projects are multi-stakeholder and multi-year investments.

Consistent with action item #44, net wetlands acreage resulting from federal-aid highway projects has increased even more dramatically than the 50% figure anticipated by the Action Plan. Between 1996 and 2000, the federal-aid highway program has resulted in over a 2.5:1 ratio of wetlands acreage created per acre impacted by highway projects. In other words, there has been a 150% increase of wetlands acres created per acres impacted - - a figure three times as high as the ten-year goal.

Actions For Clean Waters And Healthy People:

People depend on water resources, including clean water and safe drinking water, for their health and well-being. The key actions identified in the Action Plan to ensure that the nation's surface waters and drinking waters support healthy people fall into four areas: ensure effective public notices of fish and shellfish consumption risks and reduce contamination levels; improve safeguards for the health of children and other recreational swimmers at beaches; ensure that sources of drinking water are adequately protected; and respond to the impact of endocrine disrupting chemicals on reproduction and development of fish, wildlife and humans.

Some of the action items in this category were inter-agency efforts, while many others required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to act alone because of its responsibility for water quality standards development under the Clean Water Act or its public health protection responsibilities under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) also played a lead role in the completion of some of the action items in this category, as did the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), among others. Examples of accomplishments include:

Shell Fish Bed Report (action #9): Contaminated shellfish or diseased fish stocks can have serious repercussions for the seafood and aquaculture industries and the public's faith in the quality of the food supply. Under the Action Plan, a report and CD-ROM were released in 1999 on the status of national shellfish bed conditions and the factors leading to harvest limitations. The report assessed more than 4,000 shellfish growing areas around the country and identified measures needed to reopen closed or restricted shellfish beds.

Beach Action Plan (#11): Although some beaches have been posted with warnings or temporarily closed due to bacteriological or other types of contamination, many beaches are either not monitored adequately or not monitored at all. Therefore, a *Beach Action Plan* released in April 1999 is a multi-year strategy to help States and localities protect public health at beaches and recreational waters. Under the plan, data will be collected on state and local monitoring and protection activities to assist state and local managers in strengthening water quality standards and improve the science that supports these efforts.

Internet Database on Beach Advisories/Closures (#12): The Beach Watch Website came online in May 1998 and provided the first national listing of water quality conditions at coastal and Great Lakes beaches. Since then the website has added information for an additional 500 beaches to bring the total to more than 1800 beaches. Detailed maps are being developed for these beaches to better assist the public in evaluating important health risk information for beaches and associated recreational waters.

Interagency Agreement to Protect Drinking Water Sources (#15): There is a growing recognition of the value of protecting the high quality of drinking water sources as a means of reducing health risks to the public and meeting the goals of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Ten federal agencies signed an agreement to support state, tribal, and local efforts to assess and protect the nation's drinking water sources. Federal agency representatives have also participated in a series of regional meetings with states, tribes and local governments to identify what types of information or commitments are needed to support source water assessment and protection. At the national level, the federal partners also have integrated source water protection goals into several other actions included in the Action Plan.

Brochures on Risks of Locally Caught Fish (#7): Through a letter and brochure sent to 100,000 pediatricians, obstetricians-gynecologists, and family physicians, a nationwide effort was carried out to inform health care professionals and their patients on how to safely consume fish and minimize exposure to contaminated fish. By having the brochure, *Should I Eat the Fish I Catch?*, in English, Spanish, and Hmong, consumers of locally caught fish are better able to reduce their exposure to contaminants.

Actions To Enhance Natural Resources Stewardship:

Nearly 70 percent of the continental United States is held in private ownership by millions of individuals. Fifty percent, or 907 million acres, is owned by farmers, ranchers, and their families. Another 400 million acres are federal lands. Most of the rainfall in the country falls on these lands before it enters rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Thus, effective stewardship of these croplands, pastures, forests, wetlands, rangelands, and other resources is key to keeping clean water clean and restoring watersheds where water quality is impaired.

The Action Plan contains fifty action items related to enhancing natural resources stewardship of both private and public lands, reflecting the broad range of responsibilities of the federal agencies. Several different interagency teams were formed to address these many action items. A Federal Lands Management Team was formed with joint leadership from the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI), and membership from all the lead Action Plan agencies. A Stewardship Incentives Team was led by USDA to address a number of the action items in this category, while an interagency team, led by NOAA and DOI, focused on the monitoring research and information items. In addition, the already-existent White House Wetlands Working Group served as the interagency team to address the action items dealing with wetlands issues. Some of the key action items accomplished to date include:

Unified Federal Policy (#19): Increasingly, multiple demands for the use of federal lands and their natural resources can create conflicts and stake holder concerns. The need to continue advancing a coordinated and cooperative approach to clean water through stewardship of federal lands has never

been greater. On October 18, 2000, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced publication on that day of a unified policy to protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems on federal lands. The “Unified Federal Policy for Ensuring a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management” will guide the protection of water quality and aquatic system health through the reduction of polluted runoff, the improvement of natural resources stewardship, and an increase in public involvement in watershed management on federal lands.

National Forest Roads Moratorium (#21): Since roads and trails can become a primary source of sediment runoff polluting clean waters, the Action Plan envisioned a temporary moratorium on new road construction in America’s national forests. In February 1999, construction on roadless areas was suspended until a new analysis and management policy is issued. In October 1999, President Clinton directed development of an environmental impact statement and regulations to permanently prohibit new roads on nearly 40 million acres.

Harmful Algal Bloom Plan and Support to States (#51 and 53): Outbreaks of *Pfiesteria* along the east coast had highlighted the need for a coordinated federal response system to assist state and local governments during major outbreaks. An interagency Emergency Response Plan was distributed on August 18, 1998. In addition, monitoring studies of harmful algal blooms were initiated in Maryland and Florida to identify environmental conditions that can lead to *Pfiesteria* outbreaks. This program will expand to other coastal states in the future.

Stream Corridor Restoration Demonstrations and Manual (#61): Twelve demonstration project sites were designated in 1999 to showcase modern stream corridor restoration technologies. The sites represent a variety of geographic locations and conditions, with projects designed to improve multi-stakeholder partnerships, local communities, and the environment. Nationwide, federal agencies also have helped restore and improve a significant number of miles of stream corridors and riparian habitats. An inter-agency team also developed a detailed manual on stream restoration technologies for use by government agencies or local watershed groups.

Coastal Conditions Report and a Research Strategy (#59 and 60): An interagency team has drafted a *National Coastal Condition Report*, providing a first-ever assessment of the condition of the nation’s coastal waters. The report, currently undergoing peer review, will be completed in spring 2001. In addition, a *Coastal Research and Monitoring Strategy* is being released this month, providing a basic assessment of the nation’s coastal research and monitoring needs for protecting vital coastal resources.

Actions For Strong Polluted Runoff Controls:

Polluted runoff is the rainwater and snowmelt that moves across the land, picking up pollutants from various human activities and delivering them to streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and coastal waters. It is the greatest source of water quality problems in the United States today. Polluted runoff

comes from many nonpoint sources, including urban streets and lawns, highways, forests and agricultural lands.

As envisioned in the Action Plan, there have been major accomplishments to control polluted runoff. Several interagency teams addressed the action items in this category, including an EPA and USDA team on animal feeding operations, as well as a team jointly led by NOAA and EPA addressing coastal protection and polluted runoff.

Unified National Animal Feeding Operation Strategy (#81, 82): In March 1999 a unified national strategy was announced to deal with improperly managed animal feeding operations which can cause significant environmental and public health concerns. This strategy proposes to address polluted runoff by using a combination of voluntary and regulatory approaches under existing authorities to help animal feeding operation owners and operators reduce threats to public health and water quality, and remain economically viable.

Phase II Storm Water Regulations (#79): Final regulations were published for storm water (phase II) controls in December 1999. The new regulation expands coverage to include smaller construction sites between one and five acres and municipal storm water sewer systems in urbanized areas serving populations of less than 100,000. Appropriate federal agencies will work with states, tribes and municipalities to make sure that storm water control measures are implemented.

State Revolving Loan Funds (#73): State Revolving Fund accounts have been available to support expenditures for reducing pollution clearly emanating from “end-of-pipe” point sources, but the funds were seldom being used to reduce pollution from polluted runoff. Currently 27 states are collaborating with state conservation offices, other state organizations, and local soil and water conservation districts to target these funds to high priority polluted runoff and habitat projects. As of June 1998, these states had funded over 4000 polluted runoff projects worth nearly \$900 million.

Nutrient Criteria in Waterbodies (#74): Excessive nutrient loadings significantly impair our nation’s waters. As part of a multi-year strategy to develop numeric nutrient criteria, technical guidance manuals are now available for rivers and streams and for lakes and reservoirs, in order to assist states in adopting ecoregion and waterbody-specific numeric criteria. In December 2000, seventeen ecoregional nutrient criteria documents were completed, resulting in over 400 numeric criteria recommendations applicable to approximately 60 percent of the nation’s lakes, rivers and streams, and the Everglades’ wetlands.

Centralized Management of Decentralized Systems (#77): To address the growing problem of untreated wastewater from residential development, a set of draft guidelines for septic systems and an outline for a guidance manual were issued in October 2000. The draft guidelines address siting, performance, design, and maintenance of these systems.

Actions To Improve Information And Citizens' Right To Know:

Effective management of water resources requires reliable information about water quality conditions and new tools to communicate information to the public. Although the Action Plan contained relatively few action items in this category, many other action items including those highlighted elsewhere in this report (such as informational brochures, accessible databases, and assessment reports) also result in greater public access to improved information. This group of action items was addressed by several action teams, sometimes with multiple agencies sharing the lead role for the action items.

Water Information Network (#93 and 93): The first version of the Water Information Network was released in March 1999, at www.cleanwater.gov/win on the Internet. The site provides comprehensive sets of information from many federal agencies to the public on the condition of resources, projects underway within each watershed, and how to obtain federal technical and financial assistance for watershed restoration and protection efforts.

Nutrient Modeling (#89): Models were developed to evaluate the amount of nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Information in the report is being used to target nutrient reduction areas and to design nutrient load reduction plans specific to each tributary.

Actions For Restoration And Protection Of Watersheds:

Healthy watersheds mean healthy people. Therefore, much of the Action Plan was based upon implementing a watershed approach. The Action Plan proposed a new collaborative effort by states, tribal, federal and local governments, the private sector and the public to restore those watersheds not meeting clean water, natural resource, and public health goals and to sustain healthy conditions in other watersheds. Specifically, the Action Plan proposed a watershed approach built on several key action items through which government agencies and the public first identify the watersheds with the most critical water quality problems and then work together to focus resources and implement effective strategies to solve those problems.

An interagency Watershed Framework Team lead by DOI and EPA addressed many of the action items in this category along with a Unified Watershed Assessment Team, led by EPA and USDA, which focused on the two action items concerning Unified Watershed Assessments and Watershed Restoration Action Strategies.

Unified Watershed Assessments (#94): All 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories, and 80 tribes completed these assessments in 1999, designating more than 800 of the nation's 2,149 watersheds as high priority for protection. In many states the UWA's included information compiled through the cooperative efforts of multiple state agencies, often with the support of their federal agency

counterparts.

Watershed Restoration Progress Report (#102): A draft of the *Watershed Restoration Progress Report* has been completed by an interagency workgroup, utilizing feedback from participants in roundtables being held around the country (see action item #108), along with information from state, federal and tribal watershed partners. The report is designed to provide information on restoration efforts across the nation, descriptions of effective interagency coordination, tips for building and sustaining partnerships at the local level, feedback from roundtable meetings, and recommendations for federal agencies on steps to expand watershed restoration efforts. A final report is expected in February 2001

Watershed Assistance Grants (#103): With more than 800 requests from 49 States during the first year of the program, interest in the grants program greatly exceeded available funds. In fiscal year 1999, approximately \$557,000 in Watershed Assistance Grants was awarded to watershed groups to help with watershed protection and restoration efforts. Another \$363k was awarded in FY2000, when groups in 46 states submitted over 400 proposals (which would have totaled nearly \$9 million if all of the proposals could have been fully funded). Although the expected funding for FY2001 continues to decrease, these grants fund organizations which are just trying to get started, and which therefore have a difficult time finding available funds.

National Watershed Forum and Roundtables (#108): Planning and coordination is well underway for bringing representatives from watershed initiatives around the country to the Washington, DC area from June 27 to July 1, 2001 for a National Watershed Forum. This unprecedented event will explore new directions for cooperative action to sustain watersheds into the next century and beyond by building on the efforts of 18 Regional Watershed Roundtables being held around the country in support of the Action Plan's goals. Most of these roundtables were held during 2000, and they have begun stimulating dialogue and interaction among diverse watershed interests to address barriers to watershed protection and develop solutions for overcoming these barriers. In some areas, the roundtables have become an annual event. The Southeast Watershed Forum, now planning its fourth roundtable, has even received financial support from the private sector, which is evidence of the need and broad support for such a venue. As envisioned by the Action Plan, some of the roundtable participants will participate in the National Watershed Forum, in order to take their efforts even further.

III **Cross-Cutting CWAP Accomplishments**

In addition to progress achieved in implementing the Action Plan's 111 action items, other accomplishments, which cut across action items and agency programs, are clearly attributable to the Action Plan.

Increased Funding for Clean Water and Watershed Health. Additional funding for clean water efforts were intended to be a key component of the Action Plan concept when it was issued in 1998. Some agencies saw sizable increases in clean water funding, while other agencies did not. The one program element which saw the greatest increase in funding was the polluted runoff grant program administered by EPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Consistent with the Action Plan's budget proposal, the funding for the section 319 program doubled from \$100 million to \$200 million in fiscal year (FY) 1999. This level of funding was maintained through FY2000, and then increased again for FY2001.

Other on-the-ground watershed restoration and protection efforts saw increased funding. Over the past three years, Congress approved increased funding for partnership projects in four Interior Bureaus, the Forest Service, and NOAA. These funds support such diverse local efforts as the Appalachian Clean Streams Program, local private sector partnerships for wetlands restoration, abandoned mine land cleanups, local forest protection efforts, assistance to coastal states to reduce polluted runoff, and research and monitoring on a variety of locally significant water quality issues. A summary of budget appropriations for the lead Action Plan partner agencies is included in Appendix A.

Improved Federal Regional Coordination and Support for Local Watershed Work.

Implementation of 111 action items requires mechanisms to ensure enhanced communication and coordination across federal agencies in support of locally-led watershed efforts. One approach by the federal agencies was to form 12 "Federal Coordination Teams" (FCTs) around the country to address these communication and coordination issues. In a few cases, such coordination groups already existed and were willing to take on the clean water coordination work, e.g., through the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group, the Mid-West Natural Resources Group, and the New England Federal Partners for Natural Resources. However, in most cases new teams were started. The degree of enhanced communication and coordination has varied considerably across the 12 FCTs, but even their existence has been a positive sign for building partnerships among the federal agencies focused on clean water.

Outreach to Tribal, State, Local and Private Partners. One of the principal accomplishments of the FCTs has been the sponsorship of the "watershed roundtables," mentioned above, as open meetings with a broad range of stakeholders. Feedback from the roundtables already has been factored into the *Watershed Restoration Progress Report* (noted under action item #102). Outreach to state, tribal and local governments has been a key element of several action items,

especially those which have funding or technical assistance components. In addition, specific assistance for tribes was provided through a series of workshops developed and conducted specifically to help tribes develop Unified Watershed Assessments.

Improved interagency coordination at the national level. Both in developing the Action Plan and in implementing actions in pursuit of its goals, there has been an enhanced level of interagency communication and coordination on clean water issues at the national level. Not only were formal teams established to cooperate on key action items, but there has also been other evidence of greatly improved interactions across federal agencies on clean water issues. For example, there has been increased sharing of information, preparation of various multi-agency reports and products, development and maintenance of an Action Plan website, enhanced communication through use of a listserver and other mechanisms, multiple agency support for tribal clean water assistance, and continued cross-agency cooperation and communication on specific substantive issues, even after completion of specific action items.

IV. Obstacles Encountered

Given the large number of action items (111), with many having multiple sub-actions, there were relatively few action items which have not progressed well. For these action items, as well as for some of the successfully completed action items, the federal agencies encountered obstacles which included: lack of appropriations, brief time frames, staffing shortages, and other reasons linked to the sometimes overly ambitious Action Plan. See Appendix B for information on all action items, including those which fell short of initial expectations.

Lack of Budget Appropriations for Voluntary Incentives and Locally-Led Restoration. When the Action Plan was issued in 1998, it included a summary of incremental funding being requested by the Clinton Administration for the next five years for achieving Action Plan goals. Unfortunately much of the requested incremental funding has not been authorized by Congress, especially for USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). In contrast to the increased funding for the nonpoint source grant program, there has actually been a marked decrease in funding for EQIP, which is a major vehicle for voluntary incentives and assistance for local and private partners. There was also zero funding for the Challenge 21 flood plain program. This key component of Action Plan funding for the Army Corps of Engineers would provide assistance to people to relocate out of frequently flooded areas. NOAA received some funds for state programs to reduce polluted runoff into coastal waters, but may not receive any such funds for FY2001. While four Interior Bureaus received funds, others did not.

Several specific action items could not be completed, are on a delayed schedule, or could not even get started due to lack of funding. For example, action #49, Watershed Assistance Grants for Wetlands Stakeholders, could not be started because funds were not appropriated for this action item.

An Ambitious Plan. The breadth and ambition of the Action Plan has been both a strength and a barrier to efficient implementation. For example, key action #45 called for a single report on wetlands status and trends rather than the separate reports issued periodically by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and DOI's Fish and Wildlife Service. However, given the lengthy lead times required to assess data compiled through two agencies' very different survey processes (which serve very different purposes), more time is still needed to develop a plan for a single report. For a number of action items, it was very difficult to accomplish stated goals within the short time frames in the Action Plan.

Tribal Issues. The federal agencies formed an Interagency Tribal Coordinating Committee (ITCC) to try to ensure increased support for tribes. However, there were many problems in trying to address tribal clean water issues on a multi-agency basis. Lack of federal agency staffing for the ITCC, in both a leadership and support role, and unclear goals and objectives for the ITCC severely limited progress of the Committee. Even larger problems for the tribes included woefully inadequate funding and lack of sufficient technical assistance by the federal agencies.

Litigation. In June 1999 litigation was filed against the lead Action Plan agencies in federal district court in Denver. The plaintiffs argued that issuance of the Action Plan constituted a final agency action and that they were harmed by this action. The government filed a motion to dismiss the case based primarily on arguments regarding lack of standing and lack of ripeness for judicial review. A magistrate judge's recommendation was issued in October 2000, recommending a decision in favor of the government, but the plaintiffs have filed objections to the magistrate judge's recommendation. Therefore, the matter is still pending before the District Court. Aside from litigation costs to the government, there has been no significant impact on action item implementation to date.

Little Guidance on Implementation. As a broad plan, the Action Plan provided a broad framework for cleaning up America's waters to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act. However, the Action Plan was issued only as a broad framework document, without specific implementation steps, and therefore the lead agencies were faced with the challenge of organizing, staffing, funding and planning the steps needed to achieve the goals of the Action Plan. This challenge was met at the national level by establishing a Principal's Group of federal agency Under Secretaries and Assistant Administrators, a Steering Committee with one member from each of the lead agencies, and over ten multi-agency Action Teams. Although this organization has worked well, there have been problems of lack of funding for various implementation steps, lack of a strong public information component to increase Action Plan visibility and involve more stakeholders, unclear roles and responsibilities, and a general decline over time in the level of staff support for the overall effort - - especially for communications and tribal work.

Although difficulties were encountered in establishing and implementing multi-agency management for the Action Plan, the more problematic component has been the establishment and maintenance of Federal Coordination Teams around the country. In some places, there already were federal agency coordination efforts, and those pre-existing teams were able to readily incorporate an Action Plan role. In fact, those teams serve as potential models of cross-agency cooperation in support of locally-led watershed restoration efforts. However, establishing such multi-agency coordination teams in some other places has been difficult to start and/or difficult to sustain due to lack of funding support for the Federal Coordination Teams, unclear roles and responsibilities, lack of clear leadership for the clean water effort, variation in commitment across regional offices, lack of direction and guidance from headquarters, and insufficient staffing.

V. **Conclusions**

- C The Clean Water Action Plan has been very successful to date, whether measured by action items completed, progress on other action items, unplanned spin-offs, inter-agency cooperation at national and regional levels, increasing interaction with other stakeholders (at state, local, tribal levels and with private entities), and growing endorsement/adoption of the watershed approach.
- C In many cases, completion of the action item is just the beginning of inter-agency work to implement a specific element of an effective clean water program. There is a need for continued commitment and follow-through by all appropriate federal agencies on many actions started under the Action Plan (e.g., the Unified Federal Policy, Unified Watershed Assessments, Coastal Research and Monitoring Strategy, State and Tribal assistance, etc).
- C The principles advocated by the Clean Water Action Plan should continue in some form and be supported by all federal agencies working on clean water and watershed health issues. These principles include working through partnerships, supporting locally-led watershed protection and restoration efforts, involving a broad range of stakeholders in planning and in decision-making processes, and taking a holistic watershed-based approach to addressing water quality and watershed health.
- C Each agency should continue the diligent implementation of its core programs for clean water. Work begun under the Action Plan should be integrated into the on-going programs of the federal agencies, with increased involvement by each agency's senior program managers at the headquarters, regional, and field levels.
- C Future efforts to address water quality and watershed health should build on the progress, accomplishments, and lessons learned from the Action Plan's action items and from experience in implementing the watershed approach of cooperation and partnership in support of locally-led watershed restoration. Specific lessons learned and recommendations for next steps for federal agencies' clean water and watershed protection work can be found in three recent reports:
 - the Watershed Restoration Progress Report (draft, December 2000);
 - the Retreat 2000 report (December 2000); and
 - the Strategy2000 (July 2000).

Appendices

Appendix A: CWAP Budget Summary

Appendix B: Status of All CWAP Action Items

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Information on the Clean Water Action Plan can also be accessed at:
www.cleanwater.gov

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**Appendix A: Clean Water Action Plan
Budget Summary**

(Budget Authority – in \$ millions)		FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01
Funding by Agency		Enacted	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Environmental Protection Agency:					
State and Tribal Grant Assistance					
	Polluted runoff control grants (Sec. 319)	105	200	200	238
	State program management grants (Sec. 106)	96	116	116	172
	Great Lakes Areas of Concern	0	0	0	0
	Wetlands protection grants	15	15	15	15
	Water quality cooperative agreements	20	19	19	19
Water Quality program management		248	255	253	278
Total, EPA		\$484	\$605	\$603	\$722
Department of Agriculture:					
Natural Resources Conservation Service: Env. Quality Incentives Program *		200	174	174	200
Natural Resources Conservation Service: Locally-led conservation		0	0	0	0
Natural Resources Conservation Service: Watershed health monitoring		0	0	0	0
Natural Resources Conservation Service: Animal Feeding Op. Strategy		---	37	56	75
Forest Service: Improve water quality of federal lands **		468	503	617	712
Agriculture Research Service: Watershed health research		0	1	1	1
Total, USDA		\$468	\$541	\$674	\$788
Department of Interior:					
Bureau of Land management: Improve water quality on federal lands		147	161	163	163
Office of Surface Mining: Abandoned mine water quality		5	7	18	23
US Geological Survey: Water monitoring and assessment		125	138	138	138
Fish and Wildlife Services: Wetlands restoration		36	42	43	69
Total, DOI		\$313	\$348	\$362	\$393
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration					
Polluted runoff, harmful algal blooms and toxic contaminants		0	17	15	20
Total ,NOAA		\$0	\$17	\$15	\$20

(Budget Authority – in \$ millions)	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01
Funding by Agency (Con't)	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Army Corps of Engineers:				
Wetlands programs	106	106	117	125
Challenge 21: Floodplain restoration initiative	0	0	0	0
Total, USACE	\$106	\$106	\$117	\$125
Interagency Projects				
Florida Everglades	228	221	293	260
California Bay Delta	85	75	60	0
Elimination of Overlap	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Total, Interagency Projects	\$308	\$291	\$348	\$255
Discretionary Total ***	\$1,679	\$1,907	\$2,119	\$2,303
Total CWAP (with Mandatory Spending)	\$1,879	\$2,081	\$2,293	\$2,503

* Indicates Mandatory Spending

** FY99 and FY2000 funding has been adjusted for comparability to reflect a change in the budget presentation.

*** Total Dollars might not appear to add correctly due to rounding.

APPENDIX B: Status of CWAP Action Items				Status Category**				
#	KEY ACTION ITEMS	STATUS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CWAP Pg #	C	SC	EP	GP	SP
1	Survey Fish/Shellfish - Mercury and other Contaminants	z Study started and laboratory analysis of 274 chemicals began 9/00 z Conducted national workshop; Developed partnerships	25			1		
2	Multimedia Strategy for Mercury and other Contaminants	z Draft strategy for mercury and other persistent bioaccumulative toxins issued 11/98 Final strategy is being reviewed and will then go to EPA's Office of Water for signature. See: www.epa.gov/pbt	25			1		
3	Contaminated Sediment Strategy	z See completed strategy: www.epa.gov/OST/cs/stratndx.html	25	1				
4	Contaminated Sediment Recovery Demonstrations Projects	z Compiled a list of projects from all Regions z No funding at HQ level though some projects were completed by EPA Regions	25				1	
5	Consistent WQ Monitoring, Fish Tissue, and Fish Advisories	z Reviewed National Fish and Wildlife Consumption Advisory Programs z Conducted & reported on a National Forum on Contaminants in Fish z An <i>Evaluation of State Consumption Programs in Comparison with EPA Recommended Methods</i> was published and distributed by American Fisheries Society in 10/00. See: www.epa.gov/OST/fish/	25	1				
6	Additional Funding & Coordination for Epidemiology Studies in Great Lakes	z Funding of Epidemiology Studies in Great Lakes continued from 1992 to present z Continued coordination with other Federal agencies, EPA Regions, States, Tribes and local government has continued from 1992 to present	26	1				
7	Foreign Language Brochures re: Risks of Locally Caught Fish	z Developed and distributed brochures on health risks where locally caught fish pose risks. See www.epa.gov/OST/fish/	26	1				
8	Contaminated Seafood Outreach Materials to Health Professionals	z Brochures were developed and distributed to health professionals See: www.epa.gov/OST/fish/	26	1				
9	National Shellfish Bed Condition Report	z Completed report in 1999. It assessed more than 4000 shellfish growing areas See: seaserver.nos.noaa.gov/projects/95register/ and http://state-of-coast.noaa.gov/bulletins/html/sgw_04/sgw.html	26	1				
10	Enforcement/Compliance Assistance re: Shellfish Bed Closings	z EPA is refining to develop geographically based tools to identify shellfish beds for targeted enforcement z Proposed draft guidance/tools which complement the draft SSO rule z Draft storm water audit protocols are being reviewed by EPA's Office of Wastewater Management	26				1	
11	Beaches Environmental Assessment & Coastal Health (BEACH) Action Plan	z BEACH Action Plan issued (5/99) See http://www.epa.gov/ordntrnt/ORD/WebPubs/beaches/414index.html	27	1				
12	Internet Database on Beach Advisories/Closures	z The BEACH Watch Website came online in 5/98. It provides national listing of water quality conditions at beaches and other swimming locations See: www.epa.gov/ost/beaches/	27	1				
13	Adoption of 1986 Microbiological Criteria by 2003	z video and manual of Microbiological Methods released (11/99) z Draft Implementation Guidance issued (2/00) z BEACH Act (10/00) requires adoption of criteria by coastal & Great Lakes states z CFR Part 136 is currently being revised to include microbiological methods and is expected to be completed by 5/01.	27			1		
14	Enforcement/Compliance Assistance re: Beach Closings	z Enforcement strategy issued 2/1/00	28					1
15	Interagency Agreement to Protect Drinking Water Sources	z 7 new projects were initiated in 1999 z 30 additional projects supported assessment goals z Interagency agreement signed by 10 federal agencies. See: cleanwater.gov/swa/	29	1				
16	Enforcement/Compliance Assistance in Watersheds with Contaminated/Threatened Drinking Water Sources	z Draft <i>Compliance Assistance Targeting Approach</i> completed for Regional review/comment. z Drafted <i>Criteria for Targeting Units of Local Government to Assist them in Developing and Implementing Watershed Protection Plans</i> . z 41 plans completed. z Draft initiative for FY 2001 z Developed Toolbox - Compliance Assistance for Drinking Water	29			1		
17	Endocrine Disrupter Strategy/ Implementation/Report	z Completed report for Congress See: www.epa.gov/scipoly/oscpendo/	29	1				

18	Address National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Recommendations on Endocrine Disruption and Develop National Strategy	z Held Workshop (6/00) z Reviewed NAS report on endocrine disruptors " <u>Hormonally Active Agents in the Environment</u> " and developed national strategy See: www.epa.gov/scipoly/oscpendo	30	1				
19	Unified Federal Policy for a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management	z Final issued on 10/18/00 (65 FR 62566) See: www.cleanwater.gov/ufp	33	1				
20	Maintain, Relocate, Decommission Forest Roads	z Treated 103,687 acres of land to improve watershed condition z Improved 9315 miles of Forest Roads and 33,671 acres of lakes for fish habitat. z Decommissioned:6049 miles of forest roads	34			1		
21	Forest Transportation Regs and Temporary Moratorium on New Road Construction	z Forest Transportation Regulation proposed in FR (3/31/00); final expected 1/01 z Final Environmental Impact Statement for roadless initiative, issued 11/21/00; Selection of option expected 1/01. See: www.roadless.fs.fed.us	34	1				
22	Consider Revisions to CWA Forest Roads Permit Regs; Develop Pilot Program on Federal Lands	z Issuance of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rule (7/00) no longer necessitated the pilot program z EPA considered changes to permit program z USFS is drafting guidance on best management practices	34	1				
23	Restore 25,000 Miles of Stream Corridor by 2005	z Fish & Wildlife, BLM, USFS, TVA, COE, and DOD agreed to work on common units of accomplishment, and common definitions have been reached z 4,445 miles of stream corridors restored/improved by BLM (FY98 - 00)	34				1	
24	Assess Threats to Watersheds from Forest Health Problems; Target Treatment Measures to Priority Watersheds	z Solicited info and developed models to identify high risk insects and diseases z Mapped results See: www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/risk_maps/risk_maps.html z Have initiated the process for wildfire risks	35			1		
25	Assist in Assessing & Addressing Urban-Rural Interaction Impacts on Forest Health and WQ	z Convened workgroup to identify specific criteria for assessing the value of forests in the urban-rural interface and the potential for impact due to fragmentation and urban development z developed methods to test effects of sprawl z Reviewed pilot results with the Interagency Forest Ecosystem Health Team z Developing water quality-based assessment methodologies.	35	1				
26	Expand Forest Health Survey and Monitoring - 50 States	z Combined with Item 25 (see above)	35	1				
27	Restore Rangeland Ecosystems - Improve Allotment Mgt.	z BLM instructed field offices to prioritize allotments so that 10 % are assessed for land health condition annually (FY99) z Manual is scheduled for FY 01 release on procedures for conducting the above assessments on a watershed scale.	35				1	
28	Implement Mgt. Changes to Reduce Rangeland Impacts on WQ	z A draft handbook on rangeland health determination was completed in FY 2000 z Provisional use of these procedures is underway within DOI Bureaus and portions of USDA.	35				1	
29	Accelerate Clean-Up of Abandoned Mines	z BLM completed 10 clean-up projects and has 120 in progress z Goal for the end of the year is to have a total of 45 clean-up projects completed	36		1			
30	Enhance Active Mining Operations	o Amendment to previous agreement only signed by some agencies.	36					1
31	50% Increase in Projects for Coal Mine Drainage Clean-Ups	z Annual progress report issued with compiled data on new cooperative projects and conclusions z 100% increase in completed clean up projects 1998 (4) to 1999 (8). z Introduced a watershed coop to directly fund locally sponsored projects z Introduced a summer internship program to assist local groups	37	1				
32	Coal Mining and Re-mining Effluent Guidelines	z Administrator signed proposal See: www.epa.gov/ost/guide/coal z Making progress towards final rule	37			1		
33	Expand/Improve/Coordinate Watershed Assessment Methods	z hinged on the completion of the Unified Federal Policy z 35 watershed assessment projects were initiated zUSFS, BLM, EPA, USGS, & Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed a "Framework for Analyzing the Hydrologic Condition of Watersheds"	38			1		
34	Test Watershed Analysis Process	z Training (on analyzing the hydrologic condition of watersheds) involving all agencies was started 12/00	39				1	
35	Bureau of Reclamation Assess Operational Effects on Reservoir and Stream Water Quality	z Initiated characterization of WQ in 5 priority watersheds in FY99 and 2 in FY00 z Completed one of the above characterizations (FY00)	39				1	

36	Review/Implement Changes re Federal Licenses and Use Authorizations	z Included in Unified Federal Policy under section II C 3	39				1	
37	Avoidance/No Net Loss of Wetlands via Regulatory Program	z Funded 42 states/tribes to develop Wetland Conservation Plans z Issued guidance on avoiding impacts to coral reef ecosystems. z Finalized Guidance on In Lieu of Fee Mitigation (10/31/00) z Developed rules to maintain program jurisdictions (Tulloch, Wilson, Fill) z 2 new major conditions on Nationwide Permits, effective 6/7/00	42	1				
38	Expand Wetlands Reserve to 250,000 acres	z 119,994 acres of wetlands were enrolled in the WRP z 14,800 acres of high priority wetlands were restored z Legislation introduced to expand Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	42				1	
39	50% Increase in Wetlands Restored by Corps.		42					1
40	Review Effectiveness of Wetlands Mitigation Banking	z Fully funded by four agencies prior to FY 2000 deadline z NAS review in progress; expect final report 4/31/01 z Completed field review of mitigation sites from around the nation See: http://www4.nas.edu/webcr.nsf/ProjectScopeDisplay/BEST-U-99-02-A?OpenDocument	42	1				
41	Wetlands Restoration Projects in 500 Watersheds	z EPA had cooperated on 56 wetlands and river corridor projects z Developed the 5 Star Restoration Challenge Grant which provides financial assistance to any entity for community based wetland/riparian restoration projects. See: www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/	42				1	
42	Increase Acreage of Coastal Wetlands Restoration	z NOAA continues to fund States under the coastal zone enhancement grants program (Sec. 309 of the CZMA) and through Breaux Act restoration projects which directs substantial offshore oil & gas royalties to coastal Louisiana for wetlands restoration. z Since 6/19/99 NOAA has initiated partnerships with EPA & USFS to increase coastal wetlands restoration.	42		1			
43	Use Restoration & Mitigation in Wetlands Enforcement	z Issued guidance urging restoration to resolve violations. z Supporting investigation of substantial wetlands losses in NC, VA.	42				1	
44	50% Increase in Highway Wetlands Mitigation	z Fed highway projects created 2.5 acres of wetlands per acre impacted, which is a 150% gain in acres created per acres impacted through FY00. z promoting opportunities to use TEA-21 funds to offset impacts from past highway projects.	43			1		
45	Single Wetlands Status & Trends Report	Although USFWS and NRCS reports will be issued separately in early 2001, the numbers are converging, and the attribution of loss seems fairly consistent.	43					1
46	Wetlands Restoration/Creation/Enhancement Guidance	z EPA provided training to over 300 individuals on watershed scale wetland restoration approaches and methodologies z Peer reviewed draft was released for public review & comment, 4/00.	43	1				
47	Interagency Wetlands Tracking System	z developed common definitions. z agreed on what activities result in a gain in wetland acres vs. wetland function	43				1	
48	Improve Access to Wetlands and Habitat Program Information	z Provided training through USFWS National Conservation Training Center and EPAs grant to League of Women Voters for Watershed Training z Many varied products such as Wetlands Toolkit for Watershed Management; Wetlands & Watershed Newsletters; NACO's "Protecting Wetlands & Managing Watersheds"; and Tribal Wetlands Program Highlights z Provided Internet access to data and information such as USFWS digital wetlands data; NMFS essential fish habitat GIS maps; EPA wetlands info hotline; USFWS Environmental Conservation Online System; and Army COEs geo-referencing of permit data z Compiled a list of multiple agencies website URLs	45	1				
49	Watershed Assistance Grants for Wetlands Stakeholders	z No funding appropriated to establish wetlands grant program z 13% of watershed grants (under item 103) went to wetlands related projects	45					1
50	Assistance to Integrate Habitat Values into Geographic-Based Planning Programs	z NRCSS PL-566 funds provided ~ \$100M (FY99) decreasing by ~\$12M (FY00) z NMFSs Community Based Environmental Protection Financial Assistance program completed 13 projects in FY 98 & 99 z USFWS coastal grants program provided 10 States with #9.7M (FY99) z NRCS funded #5M in Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program over 2 years z USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife provided \$3M (FY99) to fund habitat programs, plus over \$3.64M in non-service funds and in-kind services to restore over 6,762 acres of wetlands. Another \$3M was available for FY00	45	1				

51	Federal Response System for Major Events in Coastal Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z "Federal Event Response Plan for Harmful Algal Blooms: An Initial Focus on Pfiesteria, Fish Health, and Public Health" was revised z EPA worked with States and local governments to help focus enforcement authorities on reducing pollutant discharges during events 	46	1				
52	Support Efforts of Coastal States to Reduce Non Point Source (NPS) Pollution Contributing to Pfiesteria Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z published 'FY99 & 2000 NPS Funding Guidance z Provided \$7.2M to 33 States for Implementation of State Coastal NPS Mgmt & Control Programs in 1999 z Draft for comment "Management Measure Document for Agriculture and Marina & Recreational Boating" issued 7/00 z NOAA's release of Coastal Non- Point Program Database to States was delayed due to technical and resource problems z Workgroup is conducting National & Regional NPS Workshops to Provide Technical Assistance to States & Territories 	46	1				
53	Implement National Harmful Algal Bloom Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Monitoring programs in progress in Maryland and Florida. z Rapid response system activated 6/99 in response to outbreaks in Maryland. z Released final national Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Assessments (HABHRCA) which serves as the strategy for addressing the 3 objectives of the action item and providing recommendations. 	46	1				
54	Amend Fisheries Management Plans to Reduce Adverse Effects of Federal/State Activities on Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z 39 of 40 Fishery Management Plans were approved with the exception of the Northwest Salmon Plan. See: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/efh/ z two amendments were approved 	47		1			
55	Promote Use of Dredged Material to Restore Coastal Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z State & Territory Policy Reports (Dredging & Beach Renourishment) were distributed including copies to the Nat'l Dredging Team z Website on beneficial uses projects: www.wes.army.mil/el/dots/budm/budm.html 	47	1				
56	Approve Coastal States NPS Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Conditionally approved 29 state Coastal Nonpoint Source Programs (6/30/98) z Fully approved MD, RI, CA, & PR (FY00) 	47			1		
57	Develop and Build Coastal Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z EPA implemented the Coastal Watershed Protection Strategy z Held a technology transfer conference (3/99) z CZ99 conference held 7/99; z Sponsor annual National Estuaries Day 	47	1				
58	Education on Value/Importance of Coastal Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z 1998 was International Year of the Ocean See: www.yoto98.noaa.gov z International Conference on Oceans was held 6/98 	48	1				
59	Multi-Agency Federal Coastal Research Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Integrated Coastal Research and Monitoring Strategy was finalized 10/00 just needs signing. 	48		1			
60	Coordinated Coastal Conditions Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z National Coastal Conditions Report (10/00) is being peer reviewed 	49			1		
61	Showcase Stream Corridor Restoration in 12 Project Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Published a Handbook: Stream Corridor Restoration: Principles, Processes, and Practices (10/98) z Selected 12 'showcase' demo projects. See: www.epa.gov/owow/showcase 	49	1				
62	2 Million Miles of Conservation Buffers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z 883,000 miles established through FY99 z 997,742 miles established through FY 00 (an additional 114,742 miles) 	50			1		
63	Reserve 4 Million Acres from CRP for Conservation Buffers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z 841,000 acres established (FY99) z 659,933 acres established (FY00) 	50		1			
64	Develop Coordinated Campaign to Encourage Landowners to Establish Farm and Ranch Buffers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z National Conservation Buffer Team and National Conservation Buffer Council established partnerships resulting in coordinated campaign that encourages establishment of conservation buffers. See websites: www.ctic.purdue.edu/core4/buffer/Buffers.html, and http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Buffers.html 	50	1				
65	Announce CREP, Provide Guidance for State Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z CREP announced in FR. See: www.fsa.usda.gov/daftp/cepd/crep/crephome.htm z Farm Service Agency guidance was issued to all USDA service center offices and States (5/27/98) 	50	1				
66	Facilitate State Proposals for CREP Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z 13 state programs have been completed z 8 additional states programs are under consideration. See: www.fsa.usda.gov/daftp/cepd/crep/crephome.htm 	51	1				
67	Pollution Prevention Marketing (PPM) Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Developed background information to use new promotion order authority to promote area wide PPM programs. 	52					1

68	Explore Options for Risk Insurance for Agricultural Producers Using New Technologies to Manage Pesticides and Fertilizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Five risk management insurance products were developed and available from private industries z Six more products are expected to be available in 2000; See: http://www.agconserv.com/products.html	53	1				
69	Explore Options for Establishing "Blue Water" Marketing Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Draft report in 6/99. 	53		1			
70	Provide Technical Assistance to Upgrade State/Tribal NPS Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Giving incremental Section 319 funds only to States w/approved programs z EPA approved 37 upgraded State NPS programs (7/29/00) 	55		1			
71	Guidance on Antidegradation Review for NPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Draft guidance was completed 6/99. z Final guidance awaiting state-developed case studies. 	56			1		
72	Promote Enforceable NPS Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Completed a compendium of enforceable mechanisms and an almanac of enforceable state laws to control NPS See: www.eli.org/bookstore/rralmanac98.htm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Compiled case studies document: <i>"Putting the Pieces Together: State NPS Enforceable Mechanisms in Context"</i> (6/00). See: www.epa.gov/OWOW/nps 	57	1				
73	Increase State Revolving Fund (SRF) Funding for NPS, Improve Priority Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z For the reporting year (ending 6/30/00) SRF investments in NPS projects totaled \$190M, equal to 5% of total assistance provided through the fund. z States are diversifying NPS projects funded; most common are now agricultural BMPs, removal/remediation of leaking underground tanks, and upgrades of septic tanks. z EPA "Policy on Using the CW SRF to Fund Non Point Source Problems with Point Source Solutions" issued 1/11/00 	57		1			
74	Establish Numeric Nutrient Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Developed a strategy for the development of criteria tailored to specific needs of all 14 different eco-regions and water body types (6/98) z For estuarine and coastal marine waters, a technical guidance peer review draft expected 3/01. z Issued Lakes and Reservoirs Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Manual 4/00; (FR V65 N100 33322-3) z wetlands- peer review draft guidance 12/00; z Issued Rivers and Streams Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Manual 7/00 (FR V65 N145 46167-69). z Issued 17 ecoregional numeric nutrient criteria documents for lakes and reservoirs, rivers and streams and wetlands 12/00. See: http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/nutrient.html	59			1		
75	Better Quantify Risks of Atmospheric Deposition to Water Bodies	Summary of Ecosystem Effects and Research Strategies was incorporated into Deposition of Air Pollutants to Great Waters: 3 rd Report to Congress EPA-453-R-00-005 (6/00) See: www.epa.gov/airprog/oar/oaqps/gr8water/3drpt/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Funded Nitrogen and Mercury deposition monitoring sites for FY01 z 2 Mercury pilots were initiated in FY00; will be completed in FY01 	59			1		
76	Evaluate Link of Air Emissions to TMDLs, Reduce Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z 2 TMDL pilots underway in Florida and Wisconsin 	59					1
77	Onsite Sewage Disposal Technical Guidance/Voluntary Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Proposed voluntary National Standards for Onsite/decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems See: www.epa.gov/owm/decent z Draft stds in FR 4/00 for public comment z Rule was proposed 10/6/00 	60		1			
78	Promote Centralized Mgmt. of Decentralized Sewage Systems, Fund Demonstration Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Funded demonstration projects in 4 states z Funded community decentralized demo projects in 3 states See: http://www.epa.gov/owm/decent/demons.htm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Published Final Guidance on Appropriate use of Loan Funds See: www.epa.gov/owm/decent/funding.htm	60	1				
79	Issue Final Phase II Stormwater Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Final Regulations expanding coverage to smaller construction sites (1-5 acres) and municipal systems (serving < 100,000) was signed 10/29/99 z Published in FR 12/8/99. 64 FR 68721 See rule at: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2/	61	1				
80	Focus Enforcement/Compliance Assistance on Phase I Stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Addressed in enforcement/compliance guidance. z Conducted pilot investigation of Anacostia River watershed to identify noncompliance stormwater facilities 	61	1				
81	EPA Animal Feeding Operations Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z Developed a national strategy for comprehensive nutrient management plans at all feeding operations (3/99) See www.epa.gov/owm/finafost.htm	62	1				

82	Unified National Animal Feeding Operations Strategy	z USDA & EPA jointly Issued unified national strategy in 3/99; See: www.epa.gov/owm/finafost.htm	64	1				
83	Support Local Smart Growth Initiatives	z White House published 'Building Livable Communities Report' See: www.livablecommunities.gov/report2k/	64	1				
84	TMDL Credits for Smart Growth	z Issued: <i>Testing the Utility and Practicality of Methodology</i> by the Center for Watershed Protection z Produced technical manual to enable TMDL developer to use the methodology z Issued guidance for developing TMDLs in Urban Watersheds See: www.epa.gov/owow/	64	1				
85	Ensure NEPA Analysis Considers Smart Growth Policies	CEQ recently assigned staff to begin working on this. No deadline as of yet	64					1
86	Assess Tax Incentive Proposals for Water Pollution Prevention	z Conservation Tax incentives Roundtable met, incl. NACD, AFT, Nat'l Council of Farmer Cooperatives. z 2nd draft "Tax Incentives for Clean Water and Conservation" report, 5/00.	65			1		
87	Develop Monitoring Standards and Protocols	z Advisory Council on Water Information (ACWI) approved performance based measurement system (PBMS) approach z developing National Environmental Methods Index (NEMI) an internet searchable sampling and methods compendium z Fact Sheet released 10/00 ACWI approval of Federal Laboratory Accreditation by 12/31/00	67			1		
88	Report on State of WQ Monitoring and Recommendations for Improvements	EPA was going to accomplish large part of item through contracted service, but no funds secured yet.	67					1
89	Comprehensive Nutrient Study	z USGS report for Chesapeake Bay published 8/99 z Journal article on Mississippi River Basin published in Nature Vol 403, 2/00 z Models were developed that evaluate nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay z USGS ARROW model which estimates nutrient concentration for all RF1 segments will be available for EPA use 12/31/00 z Next round of calibrations which will develop new models for N, P, sediment, fecal coliform, & atrazine has started. Results are expected in 2001	67			1		
90	Nutrient Reduction Tracking System	progress slow pending decisions/results from other action items above.	68					1
91	Standardize Point Source Monitoring	z Workgroup will be initiated in late winter 2000	68					1
92	Internet-based Water Information Network (WIN)	z WIN, released in 3/99, is a roadmap to consolidated watershed info and services to help communities protect and restore water quality. See: www.epa.gov/win z Over 2000 records of community groups working in their watersheds were updated in FY00.	70			1		
93	Internet Watershed Health Information System	Combined with 92, not tracked separately See: www.epa.gov/win	71			1		
94	Unified Watershed Assessments	z A coordinated compendium of water quality priorities in watershed programs See: www.epa.gov/owow/uwa/ z 56 states and territories and 80 tribes submitted UWAs z Entire UWAs and short fact sheets published on CWAP web site above z Supplemental Framework signed 11/99 to encourage updates in 2000	77	1				
95	Federal Support for Unified Watershed Assessments	z National guidance provide as part of UWA Framework z Regional, state and local agencies provided direct support to individual UWAs	77	1				
96	Watershed Restoration Priorities	z States identified Priority watersheds (category 1a) as part of initial UWAs. See: www.epa.gov/owow/uwa	78	1				
97	Upgrade Index of Watershed Indicators	z Completed fall 1999 See: www.epa.gov/iwi/	79	1				
98	Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS)	z Issued Unified Watershed Assessments (UWA) /WRAS framework supplement for 2000 on 12/2/99. z Over 300 WRASs now appear to be under development.	80				1	
99	Guidance on Targeting Expanded Funding for FY99	z Guidance prepared for FY99 and separately for FY00 for CWA Sec. 319 funds. z Limits incremental funds to category 1 watersheds and encourages preparation of WRAS for those watersheds	81	1				
100	Assistance for States/Tribes Doing TMDL's on Federal Lands	z USFS (with EPA & BLM) prepared a "Policy and Framework for Developing and Implementing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in Forest and Rangeland Environment" (FY99)	81					1
101	Assistance to Tribes to Improve WQ	z Completed 5 UWA Workshops for Tribes z 80 Tribes developed UWAs	81			1		

102	Watershed Restoration Progress Report	z Draft being revised. z Final draft expected in early January 2001.	81			1		
103	Watershed Assistance Grants	z \$557K awarded to local organizations in FY99; \$363K awarded in FY00. z See: www.rivernetwork.org/wag.htm	81	1				
104	Information and Assistance to Watershed Groups	Promoting Watershed Information Network website. z The Completed Adopt-your-watershed website lists over 3500 groups by watershed to make it easy for anyone to find out how to get involved. See: www.epa.gov/win	84	1				
105	Broaden National Watershed Awards	z Watershed Awards Ceremony conducted 10/98 and 10/99. z Will try to foster more awards through other organizations, e.g., regional roundtables See: www.cfindustries.com	84	1				
106	Inventory/Expand Watershed Training Programs	z Completed inventory in 1999 z Offering new interagency courses See: www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/catalog.html	86	1				
107	Guidance on Targeting Enforcement/Compliance Assistance to Priority Watersheds	z FY2000/01 OECA guidance (4/99) issued to EPA Regions to target priority watersheds or areas where the receiving waters are impaired See: www.epa.gov/oeca/eptdd/eptinit.html z Issued Compliance Assurance Implementation Plan for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (March 5, 1998) See: www.epa.gov/oeca/ag/aani.html z 2000 Storm Water Enforcement Strategy updated (2/00) z Issued Compliance and Enforcement Strategy Addressing Combined Sewer Overflows and Sanitary Overflows (4/00) See: www.epa.gov/oeca/ore/water	86	1				
108	National Watershed Forum	z 18 Regional Watershed Round Tables being convened through 2000. z Planning underway for National Watershed Forum for June 27- July 1, 2001	87			1		
109	Support Watershed Coordinators	z An assistance subgroup will continue to foster Watershed Assistance Coordinators in every FCT region and provide a training opportunity for WACs.	87	1				
110	Reinvention of Federal Programs on Watershed Basis	z Completed blueprints developed with case examples z Developed white paper on reinvention opportunities. See: www.cleanwater.gov/reinvent/	88	1				
111	Coordinate Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Goals	z draft report on agency GPRA coordination completed 7/99. z Working on cross-agency CWAP measures	88	1				
TOTALS BY CATEGORY				54	9	23	13	12

**Key to Status Category		
C	Completed	54
SC	Substantially Completed	9
EP	Excellent Progress	23
GP	Good Progress	13
SP	Some Progress	12
TOTAL		111



*Restoring &
Protecting
America's Waters*

CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

